

Amendment and Response

Applicant: Charlie Steinmetz et al.

Serial No.: 10/768,412

Filed: January 29, 2004

Docket No.: 200209323-1

Title: PRINTING-FLUID CONTAINER

REMARKS

With this Amendment, claims 42-45 have been added, and claims 1, 3, 12, 33, 34, 38, and 41 have been amended to clarify Applicant's invention.

Claims 1, 3, 7-12, 15-34, and 38-45, therefore, remain pending in the application and are presented for reconsideration and allowance.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103

Claims 1, 3, 7, 12, 15, 18, 19, 27, 28, 30, 31, 38, 39, and 40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hatasa 2002/0122104 in view of Klaus 5,631,681.

Claims 8, 20, and 41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hatasa, Klaus, and Koizumi 2003/0025773.

Claims 9-11, 26, 29, and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hatasa, Klaus, and Barinaga 5,721,576.

Claims 16, 17, and 21-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hatasa, Klaus, and Childers 6,116,723.

Claims 33 and 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Koizumi, Klaus, and Barinaga.

Claims 33 and 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hatasa, Klaus, and Barinaga.

Claims 35-41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Koizumi and Klaus. [*Applicant notes that claims 35-37 were previously cancelled.*]

With this Amendment, independent claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the printing-fluid container includes "a printing-fluid interface on the leading surface and extending into the reservoir and configured to provide bi-directional flow and move printing fluid out of and return printing fluid to the printing-fluid reservoir;" and "an air-interface on the leading surface and extending into the reservoir and configured to provide bi-directional flow and move air into the printing-fluid reservoir as printing fluid is moved out of the reservoir through the printing-fluid interface, and move air out of the printing-fluid reservoir as printing fluid is returned to the reservoir through the printing-fluid interface."

With this Amendment, independent claim 12 has been amended to clarify that the printing-fluid container includes "a printing-fluid interface on the leading surface of the printing-fluid reservoir and extending into the reservoir, wherein the printing-fluid interface is configured to provide bi-directional flow and output printing fluid from the printing-fluid reservoir during a first mode of operation and return printing fluid to the printing-fluid reservoir during a second mode of operation;" and "an air-interface on the leading surface of the printing-fluid reservoir and extending into the reservoir, wherein the air-interface is configured to provide bi-directional flow and regulate pressure within the printing-fluid reservoir by inputting air into the printing-fluid reservoir as printing fluid is moved out of the printing-fluid reservoir through the printing-fluid interface during the first mode of operation and by outputting air from the printing-fluid reservoir as printing fluid is returned to the printing-fluid reservoir through the printing-fluid interface during the second mode of operation."

With this Amendment, independent claim 33 has been amended to clarify that the printing-fluid container includes "a ball and septum printing-fluid interface on a leading surface of the printing-fluid reservoir, wherein the printing-fluid interface is configured to provide bi-directional flow and output printing fluid from the printing-fluid reservoir during a first mode of operation and return printing fluid to the printing-fluid reservoir during a second mode of operation;" and "a ball and septum air-interface vertically aligned above the printing-fluid interface on the leading surface of the printing-fluid reservoir, wherein the air-interface is configured to provide bi-directional flow and regulate pressure within the printing-fluid reservoir by inputting air into the printing-fluid reservoir as printing fluid is moved out of the printing-fluid reservoir through the printing-fluid interface during the first mode of operation and by outputting air from the printing-fluid reservoir as printing fluid is returned to the printing-fluid reservoir through the printing-fluid interface during the second mode of operation."

With this Amendment, independent claim 38 has been amended to clarify that the method of supplying printing fluid includes "storing a free volume of printing fluid and air mixed together in a reservoir having an air-interface configured to provide bi-directional flow and a printing-fluid interface configured to provide bi-directional flow;" "allowing printing fluid to exit the reservoir through the printing-fluid interface

and allowing air to enter the reservoir through the air-interface as printing fluid is moved out of the reservoir through the printing-fluid interface during a first mode of operation;" and "allowing printing fluid to return to the reservoir through the printing-fluid interface and allowing air to exit the reservoir through the air-interface as the printing fluid is returned to the reservoir through the printing-fluid interface during a second mode of operation."

With respect to the Hatasa, Klaus, Koizumi, Barinaga, and Childers references, Applicant submits that these references, individually or in combination, do not disclose a printing-fluid container as claimed in independent claim 1, do not disclose a printing-fluid container as claimed in independent claim 12, do not disclose a printing-fluid container as claimed in independent claim 33, and do not disclose a method of supplying printing fluid as claimed in independent claim 38.

In view of the above, Applicant submits that independent claims 1, 12, 33, and 38, and the dependent claims depending therefrom, are each patentably distinct from the Hatasa, Klaus, Koizumi, Barinaga, and Childers references and, therefore, are each in a condition for allowance. Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) be reconsidered and withdrawn, and that claims 1, 3, 7-12, 15-34, and 38-45 be allowed.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that pending claims 1, 3, 7-12, 15-34, and 38-45 are all in a condition for allowance and requests reconsideration of the application and allowance of all pending claims.

Any inquiry regarding this Amendment and Response should be directed to either Robert D. Wasson at Telephone No. (360) 212-2338, Facsimile No. (360) 212-3060 or Scott A. Lund at Telephone No. (612) 573-2006, Facsimile No. (612) 573-2005. In addition, all correspondence should continue to be directed to the following address:

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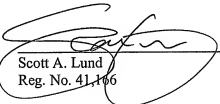
Respectfully submitted,

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